

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

## 2007 DROUGHT AND BURN BAN SITUATION REPORT # 4 15 November 2007, 1600 Hours

*New Information in Bold Italic Type*

### SUMMARY

Statewide precipitation for the previous water year (1 October 2006 through 30 September 2007) was below normal. Despite recent precipitation, exceptional drought conditions persist in portions of southwest Virginia.

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine status and is operating with normal staff.

**State of Emergency:** ***Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced on 15 November that the statewide ban on open burning has been lifted, effective immediately.*** Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a Statewide Emergency on 18 October 2007 and imposed a statewide ban on all open burning. The Governor specifically authorized the immediate placement of Virginia National Guard assets for deployment to assist the Virginia Department of Forestry, upon its request, in fighting and mitigating the effects of fires and directed State Agencies provide assistance in dealing with potential or actual drought related issues. [Ban on Open Burning Lifted](#)

Governor Kaine requested that the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture declare Virginia a statewide disaster area due to reductions in farm production caused by drought and high temperatures in 2007 on 1 October 2007. The Acting US Secretary of Agriculture designated 78 additional counties and 34 independent cities as primary natural disaster areas on 18 October 2007 due to reductions in farm production caused by drought and high temperatures that occurred from January 1, 2007, and continuing.

Governor Kaine held a Press Conference on 30 October and urged localities to update water conservation and drought contingency ordinances and plans and begin preparations to implement those plans. The Governor also encouraged citizens and businesses to strictly follow all calls for water conservation issued by public waterworks or local governments. [Governor's News Release](#)

**Executive Order:** [Executive Order 57 \(2007\)](#)

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Thursday, 15 Nov:** Mostly cloudy; 20 percent chance of rain and snow showers in Southwest and West Central VA with 100 percent chance of rain showers for rest of the Commonwealth; high temperatures will range low 40's to low 50's; west-northwest winds 15-25 mph with gusts up to 40 mph in Southwest and West Central VA. **Thursday night:** Mostly cloudy; 30 percent chance of isolated rain and snow showers in Southwest and West Central VA; low temperatures will range mid 20's to mid 30's; west-northwest winds 15-25 mph with gusts up to 35 mph in Southwest and West Central VA. **Friday, 16 Nov:** Mostly sunny to sunny; high temperatures will range low 40's to low 50's; west-northwest winds 10-20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph in North Central and Northern VA. **Friday night:** Mostly clear; low temperatures will range upper 20's to low 30's; west winds 5-10 mph becoming light and variable.

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### OPERATIONS SECTION

**ESF 5 – Emergency Management:** Posting event related items to WebEOC under event titled “WebEOC, 2007-10 Drought and Burn Ban”; Participating as member of the Drought Monitoring Task Force; monitoring weather, river flow and precipitation reports; assessing the impact across the Commonwealth

**State Warning Point:** Normal operations

**Local Liaison:** VDEM Regional Coordinators are monitoring drought impacts to localities in their region. VDEM Region Four Coordinator in contact with Wise County and Town of Appalachia officials reference water supply issue and in contact with Scott County and Town of Dungannon officials reference a water infrastructure issue.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 4 – Firefighting:** *The statewide burning ban was lifted on 15 November 2007. Local burning restrictions may still apply, and anyone planning to burn should check with their local fire department and/or fire marshal’s office before proceeding. VA Department of Forestry reports the following wildfire activity for the period 15 October – 14 November; 118 fires have burned 855 acres and damaged 3 houses and 5 structures. [Local Burn Bans/Restrictions](#); [Wildfire Sit Rep 15 Nov](#); [Burn Ban Map 15 Nov 07](#)*

**ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services:** Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water met with the Town of Appalachia Town Manager and Town Engineer on 23 October to discuss options to maintain water service to customers of the town waterworks. Virginia Department of Health and Office of Drinking Water continue to monitor and stand by for consultation and coordination.

### HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources:** Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) reported that all counties and independent cities in the Commonwealth have been designated primary disaster areas with the exception of the counties of Arlington and York and the independent cities of Alexandria, Bristol, Falls Church, Norton and Poquoson. These localities have been designated contiguous disaster areas. All Virginia localities have access to federal drought disaster assistance. [VDACS Drought Related Information](#); [VDACS Hay Clearing House](#); [Crop Status Report](#)

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reports that the significant deterioration in stream flows across the State have resulted in reduced recreational opportunities. The fall trout stocking schedule has been significantly curtailed due to low water conditions in western Virginia. On 13 October the Department issued a ban on all open burning on wildlife management areas.

### INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

**ESF 3 – Public Works & Engineering:** The Virginia Department of Health has not reported any impacts to public water supplies that have compromised their ability to provide the needs of their customers; 63 systems have initiated water conservation measures; 28 mandatory water conservation requirements and 35 voluntary water conservation requirements.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) officials met with Town of Appalachia officials and their consultant on 7 November to discuss application for an Emergency Virginia Water Permit. **DEQ officials are currently evaluating the Emergency Virginia Water Permit**

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*received from the Town of Appalachia to withdraw water from the Powell River. The proposed plan is to withdraw 500,000 gallons per day and pump it to their reservoir as a temporary solution to their water emergency. They will compare withdrawal to the US Geological Survey gage to ensure that no more than 10% is withdrawn at any time. DEQ evaluation of application should be completed within the week.* After the late October rainfall, drought conditions have begun to slowly deteriorate after the significant improvement that was experienced. ***Seven day average stream flows are below average throughout the state with isolated areas indicative of severe hydrologic drought. The 30 day outlook calls for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation through December and the 90 day outlook calls for above normal temperatures for the entire state and below normal precipitation for the eastern 2/3rds of the state through February 2008.***

DEQ chairs the Drought Monitoring Task Force and is conducting bi-weekly conference calls to monitor the drought impact and issues a monthly drought report. Without additional precipitation, conditions will slowly deteriorate through the fall/winter. Waterworks are encouraged to develop water conservation and contingency plans and local governments are encouraged to adopt local water conservation ordinances. [DEQ Water Conservation Tips](#); [Drought Monitoring Task Force Report 22 Oct 07](#); [VA Drought Monitor 13 Nov](#)

### **PLANNING SECTION**

**Situation/Documentation Unit:** Preparing and distributing weekly Situation Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness. ***Next Situation Report will be issued Wednesday, 21 November 2007.***

**Mapping/GIS Unit:** Providing maps and graphics related to drought and burn ban.

### **LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

Wise County declared a local emergency on 31 October due to drought conditions that have caused a severe raw water supply shortage to retail water customers in Wise County. The resolution requests that voluntary water restrictions and conservation efforts be encouraged to conserve water and reduce usage. The Mayor and Town Council of Appalachia, Wise County, declared a water emergency and implemented conservation measures and prohibited non-essential water usage. ***Town of Appalachia has submitted an Emergency Virginia Water Permit to DEQ and has installed 300 feet of pipe and is awaiting the arrival of additional pipe and pumps.***

***The Town of Dungannon and Scott County declared a local emergency on 9 November due to a water infrastructure issue involving the Town of Dungannon water system. The town is having problems keeping their water storage tank filled and believes they have a major leak in the system. Efforts to locate a major leak in the system have been negative and officials continue to search for the leak. Scott County Emergency Management is assisting town officials with procurement and distribution of bottled water to impacted citizens. Scott County has not requested state assistance at this time.***

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